

Remarks

The Examiner objected to the drawings and specification. Applicant amended the drawings and specification in accordance to the suggestions stated in the Office Action and, therefore, submits the objections should be obviated. The amendments should also obviate the rejection under 35 USC 112.

Applicant acknowledges claims 7, 8, 14, and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant added new claims 19-22 in conformance with these suggestions.

Applicant encloses a check for \$ 36.00 to cover the cost of these claims plus claim 5. In the event there are any further debits, please charge account number 19-4516.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18 as being anticipated under 35 USC 102. Applicant submits the foregoing amendments and following remarks overcome the rejections.

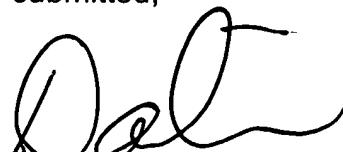
Claims 1 and 11 require that the clasp be a single unit of material, wherein the anchoring end and lace end are both formed from the single unit of material. U.S. Patent No. 6568104 to Liu does not disclose that the fastener 30' be made of a single unit of material. In fact, figure 10 shows fastener 30' being of multiple pieces.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 as being obvious under 35 USC 103. Applicant respectfully submits the combination of Liu and 5379496 "(Krauss)" is not proper in a

rejection under 35 USC 103 because the references are from different fields of endeavor. In order for references to be properly combined, there must be some teaching or suggestion in one reference to be combined with the other. Liu relates to a fastener for facilitating tying shoes. Krauss relates to a buckle for joining two cords together. There is no mention anywhere in Krauss to apply the cylinder to a shoe. Without the requisite teaching or suggestion in Krauss to be combined with a shoe, or in Liu to be combined with a buckle for connecting cords, there is no motivation for one skilled in the art to make the suggested combination. Therefore, the rejection to claim 5 should be withdrawn.

Moreover, even if Liu was combined with Krauss, there is no teaching or suggestion to use Krauss' cylinder as the receiver for the fastener 30' of Liu. There is no hint as to where to apply Krauss' cylinder anywhere in the invention of Liu. A combination of Krauss and Liu may result in the cylinder being used as a tie for the shoelaces of Liu since Krauss joins two cords, which may be shoelaces. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Krauss and Liu would not arrive at Applicant's claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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